1.6.98. Necessary action on the representation has already been taken by the Ministry.

Location of Mineral Wealth in States

523. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state what are the details of the results arrived at after explorations to locate mineral wealth by Union Government to the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and constituents of North-Eastern Region during the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): Statewise achievements of exploration of mineral wealth undertaken in last 3 years by Geological Survey of India (GSI) is as under:

MADHYA PRADESH

Gold: In Sonadehi area of Baster Distt., a 4.6 m Zone with 11.76 g/t of gold and 7.0 m wide zone with visible specks of gold have been intersected in the bore hole.

Gold Mineralisation is also noticed in the Banded Iron ore formation of Bailadila, Rowghat, Kotri and Dallai Rajhara Areas in Bastar and Durg Distt.

Diamond: Payalikhand and Bahradih *Kimberlites in Raipur Distt. show incidence of* diamond. Kimberlite bodies have also been found in Bastar Distt.

Base Metal: In Banskhapa-Pipariya Block Betul Distt. mineralisation, 7.2% Zinc, 1.65% Copper, 150 ppm. Cadmium and 7 ppm Silver is ascertained over a strike length of 200 m.

Ore zones containing Cu 0.35-0.42% and Zn 0.52-2.12% have been explored for 200 m along the strike in Bargaon–Tarora Block, Betul Distt.

Dimension Stone: Blocks of dimensional stones have been demarcated in the District of Balaghat, Seoni, Gwalior, Shivpuri and Datia.

Coal: An additional total reserve of 1781 million Tones (MT) of coal has been estimated in different coalfields as at Mand-Raigarh–1538 MT, Korba-52 MT, Sohagpur-44 MT. Tatapani-Ramkhola-87 Mt and Hasdo-Arant-60 MT.

RAJASTHAN

The reserves of gold and basemetal established are given below:–

Gold: In Bhukia area of Banswara Distt. 2.49 mt. reserves of gold ore of 1.5–3.00 g/t and in Pindwara Watera Block of Sirohi Distt. 1.450 mt. of gold ores of 0.5-2 g/t.

Base-Metal: (i) In South Sindesar Ridge, Distt. Rajsamand, a total reserve of 1.12 mt. of lead+Zinc 2.25% (ii) At Latio Ka Khera in Rajsamand Distt. Lead + Zinc 4.06% with a reserve of 5.58 mt. of ores. (iii) In Sawar area of Rajasthan (Tikhi Extension) a total of 3.57 mt of ores of Lead+Zinc 3.93% and Copper 0.09 to 0.15% (iv) A reserve of 3.28 mt of ores containing 0.83% Copper at Dariba (Akola) Distt. Chittorgarh.

Granite: Some of the good dimensional stones under the trade name as black cobra, pink cobra have been identified and mapped in parts of Bhilwara, Rajsamand and Ajmer Distts., respectively.

North Eastern Region

MEGHALAYA

Limestone: Regional investigation of Limestone in Litang River Valley area Jainita Hills Distt., has revealed a total of 2265 mt of *reserves, while detailed investigation in three* selected blocks of the same area has proved 1405 million tonnes of limestone comprising 376 MT of cement grade/Blast Furnace grade, 653 MT of Steel Melting Shop grade, 211 MT of chemical grade and 165 MT of Linz Donnaniz grade.

Dimension Stone: In Mylliem, Nongstoin, Sonapahar and Halliday Ganj areas, granite and dolomite blocks suitable as dimension stones for slabs/tiles, have been delineated.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Quartzite: Investigation for quartizite near Kalaktang has yielded 3.13 million tonnes of ferrosilicon grade quartzite.

ASSAM

Dimension Stone: In Burapaharsekoni Ridge Area of Nowgong and Karbi Anglong District medium grained grey granite & pink porphyritic granite have been demarcated.

MANIPUR

Survey has revealed spots of chromite in Nampisha-Kwatha area of Chandel and Ukhrul districts. Work is continued.

Revision of Rates of Royalty on Minerals

524. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the representation of the State Government of Gujarat the Central Government had recently constituted Committee for the revision of rates or royalty on minerals of the State and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to revise upwards the rates of royalty to Gujarat on that basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (e) The Central Government has not constituted any Committee for revision in the rates of royalty recently. However, the Central Government had constituted a Study Group on 30.1.95 for carrying out detailed review of rates of royalty and dead rent applicable to major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing). The Study Group had members from some of the important mineral producing States including Gujarat. The Study Group also had consultations with the State Governments and the mining industry and considered the question of revision of rates or royalty on major minerals in all its aspects within the scope of its terms of reference before submitting its report to the Government. The Study Group submitted its report in November, 1995. Investment promotion, stability of royalty regime, parity with the international rates and revenue gain to the State Governments have been the basic criteria for the revision of the royalty rates. After considering the recommendations of the Study Group, the rates of royalty on major minerals (other than coal and lignite) have already been revised vide Government Gazette Notification GSR No. 214(E) dated 11.4.97, copy of which has been laid on the Table of the House on 5.5.1997.

As per provisions of Section 9(3) of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, the royalty rates can not be enhanced more than once during any period of three years and consequently the next revision in the rates of royalty is not due as yet.

Aluminium Plants in Private and Public Sector

525. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Aluminium plants in the country both in public and private sector;

(b) the year-wise performances of those Aluminium units during last three years;

(c) the target set by the units for the production of Aluminium by 2000 A.D.; and

(d) the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) There are two public sector companies i.e. Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) and National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and there are three companies in private sector i.e. Hindustan Aluminium Company Limited (HINDALCO). Indian Aluminium Company Limited (INDAL) and Madras Aluminium Company Limited (MALCO). Their production performance in the last three years is given below:–

(Tonnes)

Name	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
NALCO	192288	203823	200162
BALCO	94423	92262	89037
HINDALCO	175398	166272	200304
INDAL	54084	37370	38823
MALCO	15401	22959	25853